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BRAZIL.

*Sanitary report from Rio de Janeiro.*RIO DE JANEIRO, *July 20, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the official report for the week ended July 8. There were 316 deaths from all causes, an increase of 7 as compared with the foregoing week; 6 deaths from *accessio perniciosa*, a decrease of 9; 20 deaths from yellow fever, a decrease of 1; 2 deaths from typhoid fever, a decrease of 13; none from diphtheria, a decrease of 1; 5 deaths from beriberi, the same as before, and 47 deaths from tuberculosis, an increase of 9.

There occurred during the week ended July 15, 288 deaths from all causes, 6 deaths from *accessio perniciosa*, 15 deaths from yellow fever, 3 deaths from beriberi, and 11 deaths from different fevers.

Information.—The state of health of the city of Rio de Janeiro has not been very satisfactory for several weeks. Yellow fever has made constant victims, which is unusual at this season. Typhus has also shown a higher death rate. There has not been merely typhoid fever, which is the usual form that the typhus infection takes in this country, but real, classic typhus, which has been observed in some cases. The high temperature, unusual at this season, and the scarcity of water in consequence of a want of rain, may be essential factors.

In regard to typhoid fever I beg to make some remarks:

The supply of drinking water in Rio de Janeiro is derived from the mountains, and the waterworks are under the direction of the Government, therefore *a priori* the quality of the water is good.

The removal of the excrements and the chemical destruction of filth are carried on by the English City Improvements Company. For a long time it has been asserted that the subterranean galleries may be defective. It is possible that the pavements of the streets contribute somewhat to the result. They are not strong enough to resist the heavy loads that are carried over them. It may be possible that the weight of those loads may indeed break not only the pavements, but also the conduits below them. In consequence of a fracture of the tubes, the filth may enter the soil and permeate the same. In fact, in repairing the conduits a very bad condition of the ground is often observed. Whether a mixture of excremental substances enters the drinking-water pipes below the surface or whether the infection from typhus occurs in another manner is unknown. Special investigations in this direction have not been made.

Since last report the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health from this office: July 12, steamship *Dunottar*, British, for St. Lucia; steamship *Mexican Prince*, British, for New York. July 16, steamship *Anerley*, British, for St. Lucia; steamship *Buffon*, British, for New York. July 19, steamship *Arranmoor*, British, for Pensacola. July 20, steamship *York*, British, for New Orleans; steamship *Rosemarran*, British, for Port Eads.

Respectfully, yours,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,

Acting Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.